



CITY OF EASTON
Environmental Advisory Council

**RESOLUTION OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EASTON, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Council, pursuant to authority granted by City Ordinance and by the General Local Government Code, 53 Pa. C.S.A. §§2321, et seq., has the power to “identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within its territorial limits” and also to “promote a community environmental program”;

WHEREAS, a fundamental purpose of government is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution affirms that, “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment”; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 further declares, “Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people”; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent statistical analysis of the body of scientific literature by the Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility, 685 peer-reviewed papers examining gas drilling and/or hydraulic fracturing were reviewed and the overwhelming majority of studies found evidence of or potential adverse impacts on water, air, and human health¹; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of shale gas development are documented by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s accounting of 295 private water well contamination cases that were determined by the agency to have been caused by oil and gas operations²; and

¹ PSE Healthy Energy Library, https://www.zotero.org/groups/pse_study_citation_database/items; See Compendium, <http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>, p. 4; Delaware Riverkeeper Network, “Unsafe and Unsustainable,” <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/node/3061> (last accessed March 6, 2018)

²http://files.dep.state.pa.us/OilGas/BOGM/BOGMPortalFiles/OilGasReports/Determination_Letters/Regional_Determination_Letters.pdf



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WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency's final hydraulic fracturing study provides scientific evidence that hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources and includes water impacts from shale gas in the Pennsylvania community of Dimock³; and

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence that shale gas development, and its related operations which include all the phases of the hydraulic fracturing process from the first stage of industrial land preparation; to the storage, handling and use of chemicals and additives for extraction and stimulation; to drilling and hydraulic fracturing; to the withdrawal of and degradation of large volumes of water and its discharge and disposal as waste, has adverse effects on public health, property interests, agriculture and on our air, water, and land⁴; and

WHEREAS, neither Pennsylvania nor the Delaware River Basin Commission has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative and long-term impacts of hydraulic fracturing and related shale gas development activities on the water resources of the Basin; and

WHEREAS, after exhaustive study, New York has prohibited high-volume hydraulic fracturing and Maryland has prohibited all hydraulic fracturing in their states⁵; and

WHEREAS, the City of Easton's sole source of municipal water supply is the Delaware River;

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission has in place a moratorium that currently prohibits all natural gas development, including drilling, hydraulic fracturing, wastewater processing and discharges from and water withdrawals for drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations, throughout the Delaware River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Council of the City of Easton supports the continuation of these DRBC prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission has proposed draft regulations that include the possibility of "prohibitions related to the production of natural gas utilizing horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing within the Basin", but also the allowance for "...storage, treatment, disposal and/or discharge of wastewater within the basin associated with

³ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources in the United States* (Final Report), available at: www.epa.gov/hfstudy (last accessed March 6, 2018)

⁴ Delaware Riverkeeper Network, "Unsafe and Unsustainable," <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/node/3061>

⁵ http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/findingstatevhf62015.pdf
http://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf
<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/05/29/3664098/larry-hogan-maryland-fracking-ban/> (last accessed March 6, 2018); <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/327266-maryland-governor-signs-fracking-ban-into-law>;
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmgafirmMain.aspx?pid=narrowsubjpage&tab=subject3&id=hydrfrac&stab=01&ys=2017rs>



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horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing for the production of natural gas where permitted” and “...the inter-basin transfer of water and wastewater for purposes of natural gas development where permitted”; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Council of the City of Easton considers that the weight of evidence shows that natural gas development and its operations cannot be done safely and/or without degrading the exceptional water quality of the Delaware River and tributary streams;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Environmental Advisory Council of the City of Easton, Pennsylvania calls upon the Delaware River Basin Commission to enact a complete and permanent ban on natural gas development and hydraulic fracturing and all related activities (including drilling, hydraulic fracturing, wastewater processing and discharges from and water withdrawals for drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations) throughout the Basin.
2. That an official copy of this resolution be filed with the Delaware River Basin Commission, 25 Cosey Road, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

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By: 

William G. Dohe, AIA LEED AP

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